(d) if so, by when the mining process would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) proposes to set up a mine at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong, Mawthabah in Meghalaya, after obtaining all necessary statutory clearances.

(b) the Mine has been planned with an annual production of 5,50,000 tonne of uranium ore.

(c) Yes, Besides Meghalaya, uranium reserves have been identified in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

(d) Mining is in operation in Jharkhand. Mining operation would be started in Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh on receipt of all approvals and statutory clearances. Mining in Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Rajasthan will be considered depending upon their commercial viability.

Titanium deposits in the country

1024. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are large deposits of titanium in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating details of projects undertaken, if any, for commercial harnessing of Titanium deposits;

(c) whether Government are contemplating augmented harnessing of the Titanium in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of proposals, if any, received from overseas enterprises in this regard indicating those rejected, accepted and under consideration presently; and

(g) the reasons in the cases of rejections thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a Unit of this Department, has identified Titanium bearing minerals and ores *viz.*, 461.37 million tonnes of ilmenite, 26.82 million tonnes of rutile and 16.07 million tonnes of leucoxene so far. India Rare Earths Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Government of India and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) & M/s. Travancore Titanium Products Limited, PSUs of the Government of Kerala and a few private companies are commercially exploiting the Titanium bearing mineral deposits.

(c) to (e) Considering the vast deposits available in the country, to increase the rate of exploitation of the minerals and also to attract more investment in this sector, alongwith latest technology for value addition within the country, the Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the National Mineral Policy.

(f) and (g) While dialogue at the exploratory level is going on with certain overseas enterprises, for last few years, no concrete proposals have fructified till date, which are under consideration of Government.

Rehabilitation package to people residing near mines

1025. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium mining is hazardous to the people residing near mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding the proposed uranium extracted places; and

(c) whether there is any rehabilitation package available to the people residing near Nallagonda in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Various studies undertaken to evaluate radiological impacts indicate that uranium mining will not have any adverse impact, when carried out in a scientific manner with adequate environmental safeguards.